ABSTRACT

METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR SIMULATING INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES

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In order to design and implement industrial processes in an efficient manner, an apparatus (1) is provided which can simulate a process to be implemented. The processing of the simulation is controlled by a modelling module (17) and is arranged to cause the constraints on scheduling batches in the simulation to correspond to the constraints in actual processing where mixing of batches initiated at different times is avoided. This is achieved by the modelling module (17), whenever a batch is initiated in the simulation, scheduling the following batch to be initiated, the greatest of either the maximum time items of equipment require to process the batch initiated if no delays occur within the system or the greatest time for processing batches of items equipment currently in use.

(Figure 2)